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SR/2/57-18

17 September 1957

file:
DPR
Sec. Review

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR/DOB

SUBJECT : Spotting and Recruiting Activities - Possible Sec. Compliance for AEREADY Program

REFERENCE : SR/DOB Memorandum #731, dated 9 May 1957, signed by ☐ ☐

1. Consistent with SR/2's dedication to the advancement of the SR mission we took note of reference memorandum and instituted an investigation to ascertain the facts relevant to the allegations contained therein.

2. To help get at the facts in the case we've requested of ☐ Chief, SR/DOB, to make available to us Alexander Vaidre. ☐ ☐ advised us, however, that it was not desirable from a security point of view to interview Mr. Vaidre since it would be difficult to withhold the knowledge that such interview had taken place from his roommate who apparently is Vaidre's constant companion and would be likely to find out that representatives of the U.S. Government had called out Mr. Vaidre for questioning.

3. Respecting ☐ ☐ objections to the interview we hoped to have with Mr. Vaidre, we were left only one other source whom we deemed knowledgeable of what transpired at a meeting in the Estonian Hall in New York, cited in paragraph 1a of reference. This source was ☐ himself, a PA of SR/2. An interview by a representative of this Branch with Col. Reissaar brought out the following.

In early January a meeting of the Estonian Rifle Club was held at the Estonian House at 243 East 34th Street, New York City. Fifteen members of this club were present. The chairman of the club, a Mr. Meeme Malgi, presided. No mention of the AEREADY program or any type of similar program was made by Mr. Malgi or any other member of that club in the course of the session. However, during the intermission that was held, Mr. Malgi discussed the conception into which the AEREADY program fits securely disguised in oblique terms, the only ones known to him, with four individual members of that club speaking to each separately. He told each of these men that the American Army

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had a program which envisaged the employment of communications personnel with Estonian language and area knowledge for use in event of hot war and should they be interested he could arrange for their names and biographic data to be submitted to Col. Reissaar for transmission to the proper authorities in Washington, D.C.

4. Of the four men interviewed two refused and two accepted. Of those accepting one was Mr. Vaidre and the other his roommate. No biographical blanks or sheets were made out at that meeting by anyone. Later Mr. Malgi transmitted the names of these two to [] and arranged for them to see [], individually. At the meeting with [] in each instance, he himself filled out the Agency's PRQ Part I based on information obtained from each individual at the time of the interview. These PRQs at a subsequent date were delivered by [] to a representative of SR/2 Branch which in turn transmitted it to SR/DOB.

5. The above information derived from a trusted principal agent of this Branch indicates no basis exists for an allegation that the recruitment of Vaidre and roommate was handled "loosely" or in any manner which might reflect adversely on security disciplines practiced by this Branch and its principal agents.

6. The second instance dealt with a Latvian case described in reference, paragraph 1b. Reference states Mr. Daiga and all his acquaintances were familiar with the program in that a Latvian newspaper carried a complete description of our plans. (Comment: Underscoring is SR/2's.) The writer of reference memorandum apparently immediately assumed that "the program" and "our plans" referred to the AEREADY program. In fact, however, such assumption was entirely without warrant. It took very little investigation on our part to bring out the fact that a Latvian newspaper published in the U.S. called "Laiks", in its 18 February 1957 issue, ran an article headlined "What is ASF?" The whole article dealt with the Army Special Forces program and had no connection whatsoever with the AEREADY program which it may resemble superficially in a few aspects.

[]
Chief, SR/2

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